

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

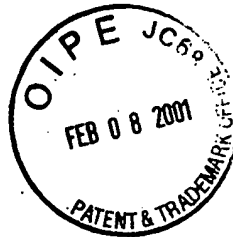
In re Application of:

Maki KATO et al.

Serial No.: 09/135,024

Filed: August 17, 1998

For: DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS
AND PROCESSING METHOD AND
MEDIUM THEREFOR



Group Art Unit: 2672

Examiner: M. Good-Johnson

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND AMENDMENT

In a restriction requirement dated December 5, 2000, the period for response to which extends through March 5, 2001, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I, claims 1-3, and 15; Group II, claims 4-9, and 15-16; and Group III, claims 10-15. Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-3, and 15 drawn to surface detail/characteristics.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4-14, and 16.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Twice Amended) A medium on which is stored a program for causing a computer to function as a processor and data system cited in any of claims [1-8 or 10-14] 1-3.